IN THE CLAIMS

1-59   (canceled)

60.   (currently amended)   A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

decoding the code vector, wherein the decoding includes deriving a ~~constellation~~ set of received signal values corresponding to the code vector; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon <u>a</u> <u>difference between</u> at least ~~one~~ <u>two</u> of the received signal values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of reliability of the decoding.

61.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 60 further comprising controlling an equalizer in accordance with the reliability factor.

62.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 60 wherein ~~the~~ one <u>of the two</u> received signal ~~value~~ <u>values</u> is a largest of the received signal values.

63.   (canceled)

64. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the <u>two received signal values comprise</u> ~~generating a reliability factor based upon at least one~~ ~~of the received signal values comprises generating a~~ ~~reliability factor based upon a difference between~~ a largest and a next largest of the received signal values.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising controlling an equalizer in accordance with the reliability factor.

66. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim~~ ~~60~~ <u>A method comprising:</u>

<u>receiving a signal containing a code vector;</u>

<u>decoding the code vector, wherein the decoding includes deriving a set of received signal values corresponding to the code vector; and,</u>

<u>generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of reliability of the decoding, and</u> wherein the generating <u>of</u> a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based

upon a comparison of the one received signal value to a threshold.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the one received signal value is a largest one of the received signal values.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon a comparison of the one received signal value to a threshold comprises generating the reliability factor only if the one received signal value is greater than the threshold.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the reliability factor that is generated is dependent upon the magnitude of the one received signal value.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the received signal values are correlation peaks.

71. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating of a reliability factor based upon a difference between at least one two of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of the two of the received signal values.

72. (currently amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating of a reliability factor based upon a difference between at least one two of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between a square of a largest and a square of a next largest of the received signal values.

73. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

decoding the received code vector, wherein the decoding includes correlating the received code vector with a plurality of reference code vectors so as to produce a plurality of values corresponding to each of the reference code vectors, and wherein the values correspond to an amount of correlation between the received code vector and the reference code vectors; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a largest of the values.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a largest and a next largest of the values.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

78.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.

79.   (currently amended)   A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

deriving ~~a constellation of~~ a plurality of sets of values corresponding to the code vector, wherein one of the sets contains a value that is largest;

decoding the code vector according to the set of values containing the largest value; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

80.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on the largest value.

81. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

82. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a the largest value and a next largest value.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.